

Testimony before the Human Services Committee
January 29, 2015
SB 280 An Act Concerning DSS
Barbara Albert, Hartford CT

Good afternoon to the Human Services Committee, also everyone else.

My name is Barbara Albert, Hartford renter, registered voter, advocate and activist for human rights, on the neighborhood, city, state, national and global levels. I am a member of the Keep the Promise Coalition, Caring Families Coalition, as well as other human rights organizations.

I have multiple medical challenges, including mental illness. I am on Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security Disability since the late 1980s. I did use to work before my illnesses became too overwhelming. I do volunteer work when able.

This is my testimony concerning SB 280, An Act Concerning the Department of Social Services. I have been a client with DSS since the mid '80s. Dealing with the same aggravating, frustrating lack of communication and miscommunications, being treated like personae non-grata, DSS mirrors many misperceptions and myths that are just like most people in society. More than half the people in our country make do without, just existing, losing and/or lost our hope. Quality of life is just not there.

It must be nice that all our information is going on computers – hackable computers. Several people do not have internet access and are not able to “pop by the library”. I feel totally cut out and left out by not being able to communicate with DSS.

Dorothy Day, a civil disobedience peace activist said, “Our problems stem from our acceptance of this filthy rotten system.” Please don’t accept how things appear. Investigate. If we don’t question authority we’ll lose our humanity.

Attached are several issues we care about.

Thank you for listening.

Barbara Albert